

HARBOR BOARD.—At a meeting of importers and others interested in the improvement of Otago Harbor, the absolute necessity that existed for deepening and otherwise improving the upper part, was made apparent. To enable Dunedin to hold and extend her supremacy in the trade of the Colony, it is considered necessary that the harbor should be dredged to such a depth as to allow the steamers in the colonial and provincial trades to come alongside Dunedin Wharf. A committee which had been appointed reported in favor of the formation of a Harbor Board. The Board to have the sole control of all matters relating to the harbor, including the direction of all officers employed in that department; to have the power to levy dues; to have power to borrow money on the security of its revenues, reclaimed land, and land granted by way of endowment; to have power to reclaim land, and to lease the same and of other lands that may be granted to it; all revenue from jetty dues, harbor dues, licenses and other sources relating to the harbor, also from rental of reclaimed land, and land granted by way of endowment, to be the revenue of the Board; that the Provincial Council be moved to set apart a portion of the waste lands as an endowment for the proposed Board. The report of the committee was adopted and it was resolved to take steps for the appointment of a Harbor Board, under the provisions of the Harbor Board Act, 1870, and otherwise to give effect to the recommendations of the committee.

GOLD RETURNS.—Grahamstown, May 10. The following are the gold returns of the several companies:—Windsor Castle tribute, 816oz; Kuranui, 233oz; Black Angel, 219oz; Little Angel tribute, 53oz; Golden Crown, 163oz; Golden Crown tribute, 76oz; Whau, 168oz; Moanatairi, 447oz; Bright Smile, 600oz expected to be obtained. The Buffalo Co., Coromandel, obtained 200oz of gold from 400lbs of stone. The escort arrived in Dunedin on the 13th instant, with the following quantities of gold:—Queenstown, 1908oz 2dwt; Arrow, 859oz 1dwt; Cardrona, 414oz 6dwt; Cromwell, 1776oz 4dwt; Clyde, 500oz; Alexandra, 710oz; Teviot, 749oz 10dwt; Blacks, 550oz; Dunstan Creek, 230; Naseby, 661oz 5dwt; Macraes, 106oz 2dwt; Palmerston, 100oz 1dwt; total, 8555oz 17dwt. By the last Southern escort there arrived in town the following quantities of gold:—Lawrence, 2122oz 16dwt; Waitahuna, 309oz 9dwt; Waipori, 173oz 16dwt; Tokomairiro, 477oz 13dwt; total, 3083oz 14dwt. Making a united total of 11649oz 11dwt.

EDUCATION.—The education question is causing great excitement in Christchurch. The Government, by a new Bill now before the Council, propose to take away State aid from denominational schools. —The 'Post,' commenting on the recent meeting of the Council of the New Zealand University, charges Otago with bringing political influence to bear, to the hindrance of the Council's proceedings. It says that the Otago members persuaded Mr O'Rorke to become their cat's paw last session, in regard to his University resolutions. It believes that next session a fresh attempt will be made to repeal the New Zealand University Act, and that it is not improbable that Mr O'Rorke will again be the tool of Otago. The Otago University it alleges to be virtually a Scotch Presbyterian College. In saying this, we think, it does not go very wide of the mark.—That precious Board of Education at Wellington, that could not afford to give aid to Catholic schools, but could afford the entire cost of supporting them if allowed to take them over, is evidently ashamed of its proceedings—and with good cause too. It has passed a resolution excluding reporters from its meetings. A late telegram has it that an amicable settlement with the Catholics is likely to be arrived at.—The Governors of the Wellington College have resolved to have a series of lectures delivered, in accordance with the terms of the affiliation grant from the New Zealand University. Wellington, as well as Otago, will thus have its University.—A Commission has been appointed by the Provincial Government for the purpose of enquiring into the present state of the Dunedin High School, with a view to such alterations as may be desirable in order to make it more self-supporting, and to add to its efficiency. A number of gentlemen will be asked to aid the Commissioner in devising measures to increase the efficiency of the public schools, intermediate between the primary schools and the University.—A correspondent writing to the 'Daily Times' says:—"I perceive you attribute the idea of the foundation of a second University in New Zealand almost entirely to the jealousy which so unfortunately prevails between one Province, or one town, and another. I wish to be allowed to add that this is by no means the whole of the matter. It is folly for us to refuse to acknowledge facts. There exists, especially outside our own Province, a suspicion that the University of Otago is almost exclusively a Scotch Institution. . . I have not a word to say against any of the gentlemen who have been appointed to Professorships. . . I do think our Otago University would have proved more attractive to the whole of New Zealand, and probably have been generally recognised, had there been less colour given to the accusation of national preferences. You rightly say that we still want three or four more Professors. Perhaps the elective body will find it in their hearts to appoint some of these from English Universities. . . I fear, from other circumstances, that the idea of Otago being a class settlement is not yet so entirely dead amongst us as it deserves to be."

POLITICAL.—Mr Murray, M.H.R., has received the usual compliment, a vote of confidence, from his constituents at Waihoia.—Messrs Webb and Murray-Aynsley have been nominated for the seat for Lyttelton, in the House of Representatives. At the nomination Mr Webb avowed himself a staunch supporter of the Vogel Government. Mr Murray-Aynsley would not say whether he would support either Mr Vogel or Mr Stafford, but he would support any Government that would carry on the works necessary for the true progress of the Colony.—The Auckland correspondent of the 'Daily Times' states that Mr Williamson is addressing the electors in various parts of the Province, and is still the only known candidate for the Superintendency. There is no sign of Mr Gillies resigning. The election will not probably come off till October at the earliest.—At the nomination for the Nelson Suburbs election, Messrs Elliott, A. J. Richmond, and Kelling, were nominated. Mr Richmond has been elected.

ELECTORAL ROLLS.—Those whose names are objected to on the Electoral Roll, should either attend the Revising Court—if they consider they have a good claim—or furnish particulars to the registration officer for the district of their qualifications, and prevent themselves from being disfranchised. Each elector should see that his name is not among the list of those objected to, otherwise he might find on coming to vote at the next election in his district, that his name had, through his own default, been struck off the roll.

THE MARWHENUA BLOCK.—The Waste Lands Board has refused the application, made on behalf of the Hon R. Campbell, to purchase land at Marwhenua, opposed by Mr Stout on behalf of the miners. At the meeting, Mr Begg, Mr Campbell's agent, announced his intention of appealing to the Supreme Court. An endeavor is now being made to obtain a re-hearing of the case, by Mr Begg, before the Board, and a Commission is to report upon the auriferous nature of the ground.

APPLICATIONS FOR LAND.—The Hon J. Bathgate has given an opinion on a point of interest to applicants for land, and which is, that in accordance with the Waste Lands Act, as he interpreted it, land open for sale would have to be applied for only at the land office of the district in which it was situated. In other words, a person in Dunedin cannot make application through the Land Office at Dunedin for, say land in Invercargill district; but he must apply, or get an agent to apply for him, at the land office in that district.

CASUALTIES ON THE OTAGO COAST.—The three-masted schooner Margaret Campbell, during a tremendous sea, without wind, at Oamaru, went ashore on the morning of Saturday last. She soon became a total wreck, and was sold at noon for £90. Her cargo, consisting of wheat, flour, and bran for Wellington, was washed out of her and very little was recovered—what was recovered being much damaged. She was insured for only half her value.—The cutter Advance, uninsured, drove ashore at Waikouaiti during the afternoon of the same day, and was totally wrecked. Previously, the brig Moa went ashore at Allday Bay, ten miles south of Oamaru.

MORE CITY IMPROVEMENTS.—Two public halls are to be erected in Moray Place, one by Mr G. R. West, and the other a Temperance Hall by a company in the temperance interest.

PEDESTALIANISM.—The seven mile race for £25 a side, between Edwards, the Californian walker, and M'Gregor, of Otago, was easily won by Edwards with a lap and a half to spare; he did not appear in the slightest degree distressed.

THE PARSEE has arrived at Auckland, 108 days out. She brings 99 emigrants, including 30 females. They are all well. The Parsee encountered fearful gales in the English Channel, carrying away her wheel and doing other damage.

DR FEATHERSTON telegraphs that the instructions of the Government with regard to immigration will be executed during the present year. The Huleione left London for Wellington on April 17th, with immigrants; and the Contarui Fleming has left for the Bluff with immigrants. 1400 immigrants will be shipped in May, and six ships are taken up for June. No firm except Shaw, Savill and Co., having tendered for the conveyance of immigrants, Dr Featherston has arranged with them for three ships to sail for Canterbury with immigrants at £16 10s per head. He telegraphs that ships may be expected to arrive at Napier in September, October, and November, with 750 immigrants.

WHALING.—A whaling vessel is being equipped at Southland, and three more are proposed to be sent to sea from this Province. Crews are looked for in the hardy Shetlanders, a shipload of whom, His Honor the Superintendent said, in receiving a deputation, were to arrive soon. The proposal to have a steamer engaged in the fishery was mooted by one of the deputation. The Superintendent promised to bring the question of a bonus to those starting on the enterprise, before the Council, though he held out but faint hopes of its being granted.

THE DUNEDIN CARPENTERS have agreed that their wages shall be 12s per day, or 1s 6d per hour.

DUNEDIN CHORAL SOCIETY.—At the annual meeting of this Society Mr G. H. Campbell read the annual report, from which it appeared that the society was in a highly prosperous state, and that there were no less than one hundred and thirty-five honorarium members on the roll. During the last quarter Mr G. R. West, who, from the commencement of the Society two years ago, had ably discharged the duties of Acting-Conductor, and to whose zealous and untiring efforts it owed much of its present position, had retired in order to afford by his assistance additional strength to the band. His post had been since filled by Mr A. J. Towsey. The Committee proposed, during the ensuing season, to produce Mendelssohn's Hymn of Praise, Maritana, probably Balfe's Opera of the Bohemian Girl, and the Messiah. In order that these works might be rendered with due efficiency, the best available professional assistance would be secured. The Committee looked forward with confidence to the next year's work, and trusted to receive from both honorary and performing members an amount of support commensurate with the advantages to be derived from a Society such as this. The balance-sheet showed that, during the past year, the total receipts amounted to £232 15s. 4d., and the expenses (which included donations to the extent of £21 to two local institutions) to £166 17s. 11d.—leaving a net profit for the year of £53 17s. 11d. The assets of the Society are £108 13s. 1d., and the liabilities £23 17s.—leaving a net balance in favor of the Society of £84 16s. 11d. for the two years in which it has been in existence. The report and balance-sheet, as read, were unanimously adopted. Votes of thanks were passed to Messrs West, Towsey, and Little for their services during the past year. The Society began on Saturday evening the practice of Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise," which is to form the first part of the next concert.